

Historic Sites Along the Old Military Road

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|---|---|
| 1. Fort Steilacoom
9601 Steilacoom Blvd. | 12. Van Asselt School
7201 Beacon Ave. S. |
| 2. Puyallup River Bridge
N. Levee Rd. | 13. McClellan Place/Street
Beacon Ave. S. / McClellan St. |
| 3. Farmhouse/Barn
37853 Military Rd. | 14. Wilson Machine Works
1038 Elliot Ave. W. |
| 4. Jovita Land Company
Raffle House
4600 S. 364th St. | 15. St. Alphonsus School
5816 15th Ave. NW |
| 5. Sutherland's Store
S. 342nd St. / Military Rd. | 16. Ballard Multi-Use Bldg.
15th Ave. NW / NW 60th St. |
| 6. World War II Duplex
S. 342nd St. off Military Rd.,
behind Sutherland's Store | 17. Kenmore Comm. Club
7304 NE 175th St. |
| 7. Star Lake Inn
3418 S. Star Lake Rd. | 18. Red Brick Road Park
Hwy 522 / 96th Ave. NE |
| 8. Star Lake School
S. 272nd St. / Military Rd. | 19. Lake McMurray Store
22805 St Rte 9, Mt Vernon |
| 9. Grandview Dog Park
S. 228th St. / Military Rd. | 20. Samish Hwy Garage
Old Hwy 99, south of Lake
Samish Road |
| 10. Riverton Farmhouse
S. 131st St. off Military Rd. | 21. Pickett House
910 Bancroft St., Bellingham |
| 11. Riverton Dairy Barn
S. 131st St. off Military Rd. | 22. Fort Bellingham site
East of Fort Bellingham Rd.,
south of Marine Dr. |

*Thank you for bearing in mind that a number
of these venues are private property.*

MILITARY ROAD COMMITTEE

SoCoCulture; Historical Society of Federal Way; Greater Kent
Historical Society; Highline Historical Society; Tukwila Historical
Society; Pat Brodin, City of Tukwila

Bruce Bickford; Wes Gannaway, Whatcom Historical Society;
Kevin Hall, Des Moines Historical Society; Edradine Hovde, The
Pickett House; Kenmore Heritage Society; JoAnne Matsumura;
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The Pickett Society; Snohomish Historical Society; Vicki
Stiles, Shoreline Historical Museum; Carol Stout, Historic Fort
Steilacoom; Washington State Historical Society

Thank you for your interest and support. This brochure was
researched and prepared by Karen Meador.



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MILITARY ROAD:

A Lasting Legacy



ca. 2014



Five Mile Lake, ca. 1870

FOLLOW THE ROAD
FROM
FORT STEILACOOM
TO
FORT BELLINGHAM

MILITARY ROAD:

A Lasting Legacy

WASHINGTON TERRITORY—Retaining its original name
and general route throughout South King County, Military
Road is a section of the Fort
Steilacoom–Fort Bellingham
Road, part of a network of Military
Roads constructed in the Pacific
Northwest under the supervision
of the U.S. Army in the 1850s.
Hostilities between Natives and
settlers spurred Congress, with
the support of Secretary of War
and future Confederate President
Jefferson Davis, to appropriate
\$35,000 in 1857 to construct a land
route between the two forts to move
troops and supplies and facilitate
settlement in the remote Puget Sound Country.

Traveling on foot with a pocket compass and
an axe to mark trees along the way, Army
Captain W.W. DeLacy began surveying the
unsettled wilderness accompanied by a crew
of six Native Americans and three settlers;
the area was so densely-wooded pack animals
could not be used.

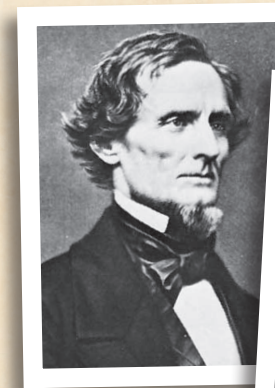
Construction began in 1858 under the
supervision of Lieutenant George H.
Mendell; the road was completed to Seattle
in October 1860. Throughout its length the
Road follows the lakes in the vicinity – the
gas stations of the pre-motor buggy era. In
South King County, Army troops camped
at the three lakes the Road connects; Five-
Mile Lake, Star Lake and Angle Lake.
Five-Mile Lake derives its name from the
fact it is five miles from the Carson's Ferry Crossing on the
Puyallup River – the same location as the modern Puyallup
River Bridge. The gravel footpath along the lake is a remnant of
the original wagon road.

Near the present site of Georgetown in south Seattle, the Road
crossed the Duwamish River Valley – known today as Boeing
Field – to Beacon Hill and from there along the tide flats of a
rough little mill town called Seattle. Crossing Salmon Bay and

continuing north through present-day
Ballard, the Road traversed east along
the north shore of Lake Washington,
skirting the swamps along
Sammamish Slough and eventually
moving north along the route of the
future Highway 9. Turning west north
of Big Lake, the Road moved north to
Bellingham along the present routes of
Highway 99 and Interstate-5.

Captain George Pickett was in charge
of construction at the northern end
of the road from Whatcom to Fort
Bellingham. George B. McClellan, Joseph
Hooker and Ulysses S. Grant were among
other future Civil War generals assigned
to the Pacific Northwest as junior officers
in the 1850s, a number of whom were
involved in Military Road construction.
The first telegraph line in Washington
Territory was strung along the length of
the Road in 1864.

Carved out of the wilderness on the eve of
the Civil War, Military Road encouraged
settlement and commerce and enabled
the movement of people and supplies
throughout its length, a
legacy that
continues
today.



Jefferson Davis



Ulysses S. Grant

1858 - 1860

FORT STEILACOOM
to
FORT BELLINGHAM

FIRST TELEGRAPH LINE IN
WASHINGTON TERRITORY
REACHED SEATTLE:
OCTOBER 1864

Road Encourages
Settlement & Commerce!

Background sketch of Mt. Rainier
by James Tilton Pickett, son of
General George E. Pickett





1 FORT STEILACOOM, 1849
Just as all roads led to Rome, all roads in early Washington Territory led to Fort Steilacoom.



2 PUYALLUP RIVER BRIDGE
Site of an 1856 U.S. Army blockhouse and ferry crossing; throughout the Road modern bridges were built at original ferry crossings.



3 FARMHOUSE/BARN, 1906/ca. 1925
Small farms such as this were once common throughout the area.



4 SUCH A DEAL - \$25! 1910
Jovita Land Company Raffle House - A model home built to attract buyers to the area and promote the Interurban Railway.



5 SUTHERLAND'S STORE, 1931
A roadside grocery/gas station with mom and pop living above the store; active until 1984. Many neighbors remember buying candy here.



6 WORLD WAR II DUPLEX, ca. 1935
This chicken house was converted into a two-story duplex to accommodate the growing Boeing workforce on the eve of World War II.



7 STAR LAKE INN, 1897
One of the last of the old roadhouses, now a neighborhood gathering spot. The core of the building was the home of the original homesteaders.



8 STAR LAKE SCHOOL, 1910
Part of Star Lake School District #64, the building operated as a school until 1929; it was later owned by the Star Lake Improvement Club.



9 GRANDVIEW DOG PARK
A former NIKÉ missile launch site, active from 1955 to 1963; a number of NIKÉ sites were built in the vicinity of Military Road in the 1950s.



10 RIVERTON FARMHOUSE, 1912
One of the local farms that supported the Riverton TB Sanatorium, located on the opposite side of Military Road; in service from 1910 through the 1960s.



11 RIVERTON DAIRY BARN, 1900
Characteristic of the early 20th century dairy barns once common throughout the area.



12 VAN ASSELT SCHOOL, 1909
Located on the donation claim of early pioneer Henry Van Asselt, who was instrumental in settling the area and an early advocate for road construction.



13 McCLELLAN PLACE/STREET
In honor of the future Civil War general who performed railroad and wagon road surveys as a junior officer assigned to the Pacific Northwest.



14 WILSON MACHINE WORKS, 1926
Typical of small manufacturing buildings of the era, this brick structure captures the once-thriving industrial waterfront along Elliot Ave.



15 ST. ALPHONSUS PARISH SCHOOL, 1923
Located behind the Catholic Church, the school has been serving the Ballard community since 1907.



16 BALLARD MULTI-USE, 1927
An L-shaped, multi-use "complex," the site features a courtyard and a row of nine brick garages - each wide enough for a Model-T!



17 KENMORE COMM. CLUB, 1930
Launched as a "quasi-governmental entity" to provide community representation to the then-King County Commissioner.



18 RED BRICK ROAD PARK, 1912-13
Built to connect Bothell with Seattle, immigrant Greek and Italian craftsmen laid each brick by hand.



19 LAKE McMURRAY STORE, 1889
A true general "we have everything" store, where gas comes from "two old pumps, the kind with wheels that turn rather than digital readouts."



20 SAMISH HIGHWAY GARAGE, EARLY 20TH CENTURY
Located in Alger, a census-designated place on Old Highway 99.



21 PICKETT HOUSE, 1856
Constructed by Capt. George E. Pickett, who lived here with his native wife and son while posted at Fort Bellingham in the late 1850s.



22 FORT BELLINGHAM SITE, 1856-60
Constructed under the command of Captain George E. Pickett and 68 men from the 9th Infantry Regiment out of Fort Steilacoom.